



## MEMORANDUM

To: Parks and Recreation Board

From: Jesus M. Olivares, Director  
Parks and Recreation Department

Date: June 25, 1999

Subject: Barton Creek Greenbelt

In your June 22, 1999 public hearing on the Barton Creek Greenbelt, the Board requested a chronology of events surrounding the development of the greenbelt and access from Camp Craft Road. In addition, attached are the answers to questions and concerns raised by the speakers and the Board regarding closing the Camp Craft Road access and opening a new access at 2430 Capital of Texas Highway South. It is hoped that the chronology and answers will clarify the issues raised and clear up any misunderstandings as to how the department determined the need for a new trailhead at this location.

Please feel free to contact me anytime if you require additional information.

Jesus M. Olivares, Director  
Parks and Recreation Department

## Barton Creek Greenbelt Chronology

- Prior to 1980 the City acquired the Barton Creek Greenbelt between Zilker Park and Loop 360. In 1980 and 1981 the City acquired 377 acres of land to extend the Greenbelt between Loop 360 and Lost Creek.
- In 1985, the City completed improvements to the greenbelt with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department grant assistance, including a 8.5 mile trail, a parking lot at the Loop 360 bridge, pedestrian entries at Barton Skyway and Camp Craft Road, three composting toilets, and signs. The Camp Craft Road entrance gate and trail were built on Camp Craft Road in the Woods of Westlake neighborhood to provide access to the upper section of the greenbelt.
- In May 1985, after completion of the new trail, the Woods of Westlake Neighborhood Association requested, out of concern about impacts on the neighborhood, that the Parks and Recreation Department Director not open the Camp Craft Road trailhead. The Camp Craft Road trailhead was not opened, with the stipulation that, at some point in the future, the situation would be reviewed to determine whether conditions warrant continued closure.
- In November 1987, the Parks Board reviewed the issue and recommended opening the Camp Craft Road trailhead. In April 1988, Council considered a City Manager recommendation to open the trailhead and, in June 1988, Council approved opening the trail.
- In June 1994, PARD purchased 103 acres on Loop 360 from the Parkstone PUD at the appraised value of \$6,350,000. The acquisition was part of the initiative to acquire 1000 acres on Barton Creek to form the Barton Creek Wilderness Park, as approved in the 1992 bond election.
- At the present, PARD is developing plans to build a 66 space parking lot on the 103 acre tract to provide improved access to the upper greenbelt. The new trailhead will contain parking, a restroom, a new trail to the creek, and directional signs. It is estimated the design, permitting and construction of the new trailhead will take 18 months. Before the parking lot Site Plan can be approved the zoning must be changed to Public (P).

### Questions from June 22, 1999 Parks Board Meeting

1. How far is the bottom of the new trail from the bottom of the existing trail. How far is it walking? – Approximately 1 mile.
2. Where does the parkland end and private property begin? At the Camp Craft Road entrance, the parkland is the width of the dirt road as it begins to descend the hill. All other land adjoining the gate is private land.
3. What are the crime statistics for the area? Are they unusually high based on other parts of the city? – Since January 1, 1999, 3 incident reports for the entrance around camp Craft Road: 2 were for lost property and 1 was for park curfew. Reports for Scottish Woods Trail include: 1 report for 1999 – theft of a UPS Package. For Scottish Woods Trail for the years 1991 through 1998, there were 14 burglary of vehicles, 1 criminal mischief, 2 thefts, 1 burglary, 2 attempted burglaries, 1 harassment, 1 fire, 2 burglary of vehicles and 4 alarm calls. This information is just for Scottish Woods Trail. Attempts are being made to gather information on the total number of calls for the entire neighborhood and how they relate to other parts of the city.
4. What does the city have in mind for new access to new area? – The new trailhead will have a 66 space parking lot, a restroom, water fountain, signs and a trail the creek.
5. Can we have a water fountain and port-o-pot at existing location? There is a water line in Camp Craft which could be tapped for a water fountain at the entrance. There is a composing toilet at the bottom of the hill; signs could be added to clarify this issue.
6. Was there Council action in 1985 to close the Camp Craft Road access? No; the PARD Director decided not to open the newly completed trail in 1985.
7. Is there another entrance to go up the trail? - Currently there are 7 public entrances to the greenbelt located at Camp Craft Road, MoPac bridge, Loop 360 Bridge, Gus Fruh, Barton Hill School, Spyglass Drive and Zilker Park. The Camp Craft Road entrance is the furthest up the trail going west. The next closest entrance would be the MoPac bridge which is approximately 3 to 3.5 miles.
8. Have city biologist addressed the habitat issue for new access? The new parking lot plan has been reviewed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Department and they approved it as having no impact on endangered species. The new trail routes existing pedestrian traffic away from populations of *Streptanthus* and cave sites.



9. What would be the effect on EMS if brush were added to the trail to close it off? Obscuring the trail with brush would block access by EMS; emergency access would be maintained by keeping the trail open or through controlled access.
10. Is there any data on the number of complaints from the Woods of Westlake? Any comparison to other neighborhoods near access points? The number of Woods of Westlake complaints has not been tracked but there have been more from this neighborhood than near Spyglass Drive, Barton Hills School or Gus Fruh.
11. What promises were made to the neighborhood at the time the trail was closed in 1985, and also opened in 1987? The trail was closed in 1985 with the stipulation that, in the future, the situation would be reviewed to see if opening the trail becomes warranted.
12. Were there plans originally to construct a parking lot and other amenities at the Camp Craft Road in the future? What changed to cause these plans to be set aside? In the mid-1980's, there was an interest in developing a parking lot on a plateau between the entrance and the creek. It was not built because funding was not available at the time.
13. Are there any plans for access points north of Camp Craft Road in the future? There is a possibility an access could be built near the Lost Creek Road bridge after the area is annexed since the greenbelt is owned by the MUD.
14. When will the access point actually be closed? If approved, the access point is proposed to be closed when the new trailhead is completed, in approximately 18 months.



## MEMORANDUM

To: Parks and Recreation Board

From: Jesus M. Olivares, Director  
Parks and Recreation Department

Date: June 25, 1999

Subject: TEA-21 Grant Application

The Parks and Recreation Department is applying for a TEA-21 (formerly ISTEA) grant application entitled the Comprehensive Urban Trail System, Phase II. Phase I was approved by TxDot in 1994, and is now under construction. Phase II would substantially complete the urban trail system.

The following are the elements of the Comprehensive Urban Trail System, Phase II:

- A) *Town Lake River Trail* – The existing Town Lake trail has a gap on the south shore because of developed private properties that separates parkland. This project would close this 1.25 mile gap by going out on the Lake itself and building a 12' wide concrete and steel structure that would run parallel to the shoreline. There would be three public access points; controlled access would be provided to private properties if desired.
- B) *Blunn Creek Trail* – The Travis Heights neighborhood would be connected to the Town Lake trail system by construction of a 1,195' trail that follows Blunn Creek under Riverside Drive and continues on to the River Trail on Town Lake.
- C) *West Bouldin Creek Trail* – The West Bouldin Creek neighborhood would be connected to the existing Town Lake trail by construction of 3,685' trail, which passes under Barton Springs Road.
- D) *Shoal Creek Trail Enhancements* – The Shoal Creek trail was improved in Phase I of this project by closing gaps in the existing trail system. Phase II would implement priority elements of the newly developed "Shoal Creek Action Plan". These improvements would include lighting, site furniture, safety phones, landscaping, trail surface improvements, and neighborhood entry plazas.

The total projected cost of this project is \$12,414,950. TxDot requires a match of 20% or \$2,482,990 which is available in cash and CIP for related trail projects. I recommended that the Parks Board give this grant application a positive recommendation for Council consideration.

Jesus M. Olivares, Director  
Parks and Recreation Department



# City of Austin

Founded by Congress, Republic of Texas, 1839

Municipal Building, Eighth at Colorado, P.O. Box 1088, Austin, Texas 78767 Telephone 512 499-2000

June 16, 1999

Dear Property Owner:

The City of Austin Parks and Recreation Board will be holding a public hearing on June 29, 1999, 6:30 p.m., 200 South Lamar Blvd., on a grant application for a proposed south Town Lake Trail extension. The extension connects the trail from the Austin American-Statesman Building to east of I.H. 35 by placing the trail on Town Lake itself. The trail extension is proposed to be a 12' wide concrete structure supported by piers approximately 25 feet off the shoreline with 3 public access points and private access points by permission only. Attached is a drawing and notice of public hearing for your information. The grant application is scheduled to go before the City Council on July 1, 1999.

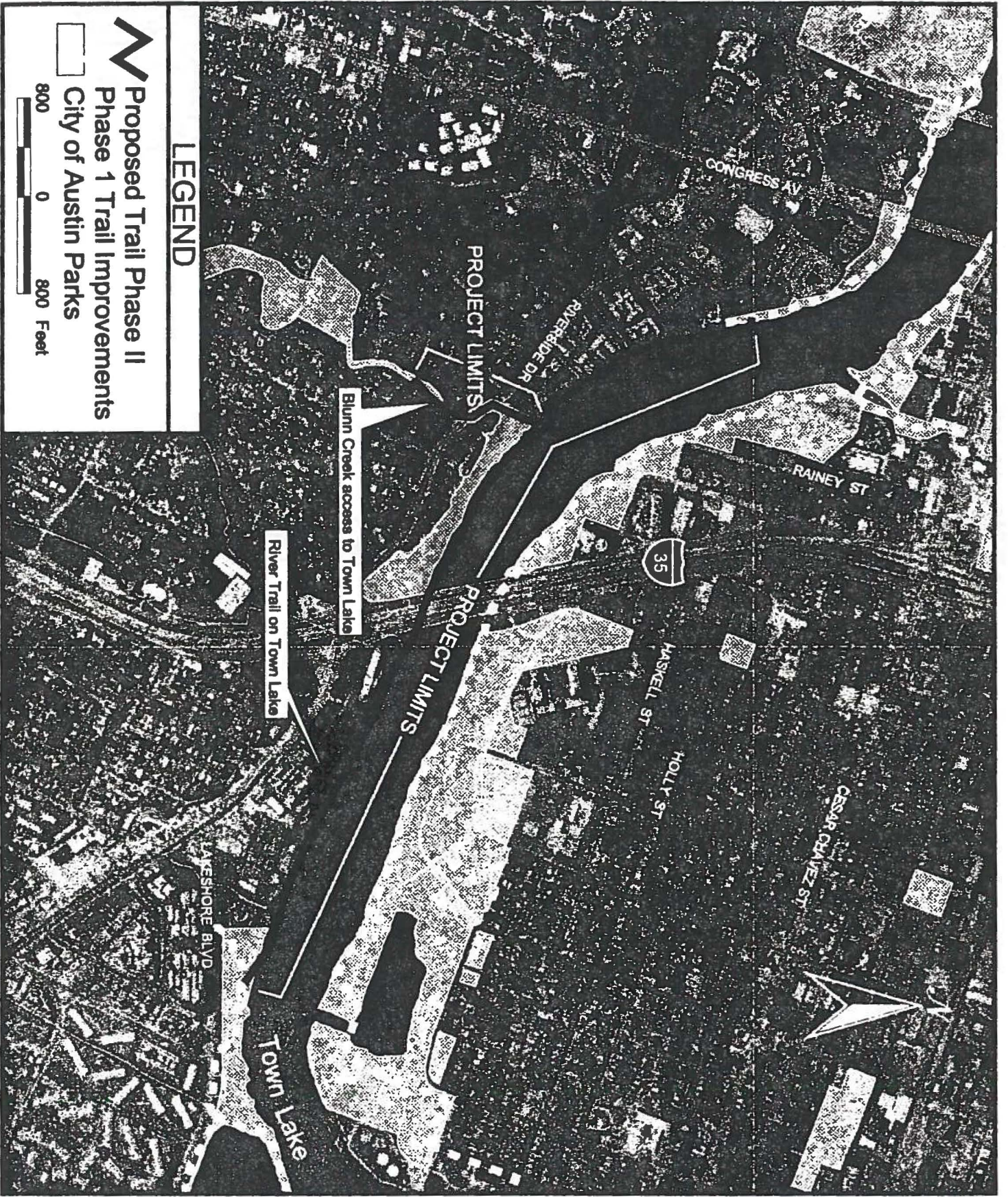
All the landowners will have the opportunity to participate in the design process to enhance property security, and water access. I would like to invite you to attend this public hearing in order to see the presentation on the proposal.

If you would like additional information, please contact Butch Smith at 499-6763.

Sincerely,

Jesus M. Olivares, Director  
Parks and Recreation Department





LEGEND



Proposed Trail Phase II  
Phase 1 Trail Improvements



City of Austin Parks

800 0 800 Feet